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The Attraction of the Gentiles

60: 4-9

The attraction of the Gentiles DIG: What is the context, the time period in view here? What will be the reaction of the Jews to the call to bring them home? Who are the sheep Gentiles and what will they do? From what directions will the people come to Jerusalem? How will they come? Why will they do so? What is missing from the gifts the magi brought the baby Jesus? How are the sheep and rams used as offerings?

REFLECT: Is this something to look forward to, or to dread in your eyes? Is your giving as joyful as these Gentiles? Why do you think their giving is so great? What was the reason for their giving? How do you honor the LORD with your giving?

Throughout **her** long history, **the nations**, or **the Gentiles** of the world have continually attacked **the Jews** of **Isra'el**. But during the Messianic Kingdom, **the Jews** will find that **they** are an attraction to **the Gentiles**. But this will not be to gain favor with **them**, or repay **them** for their suffering. Nor will it be to recognize **them** as a superior race. It will be to share with **them** in the worship of **the LORD**. And when **the Gentiles come**, **they** will bring two things with them, **Isra'el's sons and daughters and the wealth** of the world (**60:11, 61:6; Haggai 2:7-8; Zechariah 14:14**). **Lift up your eyes and look about you** is the same phrase as in **49:18**, and with the same meaning. **All assemble and come to you; your sons come from afar, and your daughters carried on the arm (60:4)**. The gathered nation of **Isra'el** will be literally coming home to **ADONAI**.

Then God said: **You will look and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy; the wealth on the seas will be brought to you, to you the riches of the nations will come (60:5)**. **Isra'el** will also rejoice because the **sheep Gentiles** (see the commentary on **Revelation, to see link click [Fc](#) - The Sheep and the Goats**) will also desire to worship **the LORD** in **Jerusalem (Zechariah 14:16-19)**. **The riches** that **they** will bring are an expression of thanks to **God**, **proclaiming the praise of ADONAI**. **The Gentiles** will not bring the **riches of**

the world so that **the Jews** can finally enjoy that which is **their** due. If **they** expect it, however, **they** will lose their covenant blessings (**Malachi 2:1-9**). No, **the Gentiles** will bring **the riches** of the world out of a grateful heart, and because **the Jews** will receive **them** as a gift from **God**, **they** may enjoy **them** forever.

There are six examples of **the nations** that will bring the wealth of the world to **Isra'el**. **Herds of camels will cover your Land, young camels of Midian and Ephah (60:6a)**. First, **Isaiah** mentions **Midian**, south of the Dead Sea, which has its origin in **Genesis 25:2**. In fact, **Midian** was one of the other sons of Abraham from Keturah, his third wife after the death of Sarah. **He** also mentions **Ephah** who was the son of **Midian** and the grandson of Abraham and Keturah (**Genesis 25:3-4; First Chronicles 1:33**).

And all from Sheba will come, bearing gold and incense and proclaiming the praise of ADONAI (60:6b). When the magi came to worship **the child King** in Bethlehem, they brought gifts with them (see the commentary on **The Life of Christ Av - The Visit of the Magi**). What gift is left out at **Messiah's** Second Coming we see in this passage? Myrrh! They do not bring myrrh because it speaks of death. When **He** comes again, nothing will speak of death. **Gold** speaks of **His** Kingship and **incense** points to **His** deity. But there will be no myrrh because **He** will not come to die upon a cross for the sins of the world again. **He** will come as **the Lion of the tribe of Judah, and the KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS** to rule and reign forever (**Revelation 5:5 and 19:16**).

Here two **sons** of Ishmael, **Kedar and Nebaioth**, are mentioned (**Midian** is also linked to the Ishmaelites in **Genesis 37:28** and **Judges 8:24**). **The prophet's** eye moves to another source of wealth to be brought to **the Israelites** during the messianic Kingdom: **All Kedar's flocks will be gathered to you, the rams of Nebaioth will serve you (60:7a)**. The next one he talks about is **Kedar** in northern Arabia. He was the second son of Ishmael. This is one of the Arab tribes mentioned in **Genesis 25:13**. The **Nebaioth** (Neb-bi-OATH) are today called the Nabeteons. **Nabaioth** was the first of twelve **sons** of Ishmael (**Genesis 25:13, 28:9; First Chronicles 1:29**). They were a branch of the Edomites. It was the Nabeteons who settled and built the city of Bozrah, which will play a significant role when we get to **Chapter 63**. So not only were there twelve **sons** and twelve tribes of **the sons** of Isaac, but there were twelve **sons** and twelve tribes of **the sons** of Ishmael (see the commentary on **Genesis Gi - The Twelve Sons of Ishmael**).

The LORD says that those sheep **and rams will be accepted as offerings on**

His altar. The flocks will *minister* to **ADONAI**. This is the verb (*srt*) used to describe the honored and voluntary ministry of the priests in **the Temple**. Here, the sheep **and the rams** are pictured as *ministering* to **Messiah**, who declares that **He will adorn His glorious Millennial Temple** as sacrifices (**60:7**). **Ezeki'el 40-48** describes **Messiah's Temple** where **offerings** will be made on the bronze **altar** there (see the commentary on [Jeremiah Gs - God Shows a Vision of the Millennial Temple](#)). These will not be offered for sins, but as a memorial. During the dispensation of Grace believers are instructed to participate in a physical observance, or communion, in remembrance of the death of **Messiah**. But for **Isra'el** in the Kingdom there will be a different memorial: **the sacrificial system in the Dispensation of the Messianic Kingdom will serve the same purpose as communion in the Dispensation of Grace**. It will be the, **do this in remembrance of Me**, for **Jewish** believers.

*There will be an abundance of wealth brought to worship **Jesus Christ** from the descendants of Ishmael. Whether the gifts from **Sheba** will be **gold, silver** or **incense**, we do not know. But what we do know, is that descendants of Ishmael will bring their wealth **to the millennial Temple in Jerusalem to honor the LORD, the Holy One of Isra'el** (see the commentary on [Revelation Fk - Gentiles in the Messianic Kingdom](#)).*

Who are these that fly along like clouds on the horizon, **like doves to their nests (60:8)**. **The clouds** are a picture of speed and **the nests** represent safety (**Psalm 84:3**). Next **the prophet's** eyes turn to the west, where he sees a fleet of **ships** whose sails seem **like clouds** on the horizon **of the Mediterranean Sea**. **The speed of the ships is compared with the swiftness of doves when returning to their nests. They fly more swiftly when they return with food to their young than when they depart in search of it (Hosea 11:11)**.



This is the **God** for whom **the Gentile nations** have been waiting (**24:14-16, 51:5**), and as soon as **they** receive word of **His** triumph (see the commentary on **Revelation Ex - The Eight Stage Campaign of Armageddon**) **they** are off, with the great seagoing **ships of Tarshish (23:1)**. Evidently the way **Tarshish** is used here refers to all seagoing nations whose **ships** will be used to return **Isra'el** to the Land of Promise. Now **Isaiah** sums up what **he** has said before. The cargo of these **ships** will be twofold: **Zion's children** and the offerings of **the Gentile nations**. **They** will come because **God** has shown **His** beauty through **His people** (also see **55:5**).²⁴⁰ **Surely the islands look to Me; in the lead are the ships of Tarshish (60:9a)**. **Tarshish** was a name given to colonies of the Phoenicians. There was more than one **Tarshish**, but they all originate with the Phoenicians.

Consciously or unconsciously, the world's longings can only find their fulfillment in **the Holy One of Isra'el**. So the colonies of Phoenicia, which include North Africa, Spain, England and the coast of Africa, will all be involved in this world-wide regathering. **Isaiah** says that they will bring no insights, but will carry **Isra'el's sons and daughters from afar, with their silver and gold**. Instead of **the Gentiles** demanding payment, **they** will send **the Jews** off with gifts just as **the Egyptians** did (**Exodus 12:35-36**). **They** do this **to honor YHVH, the Holy One of Isra'el**. **They** will recognize that **He has endowed Isra'el with splendor (60:9b)**.